

**STATEMENT OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SIENA ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE**  
**March 15, 2022**

The Academic Senate of the University of Siena reiterates its firm support to the principles contained in chpt. 11 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic, *repudiating war as an instrument of offense to the freedom of other peoples and as a means of resolving international disputes.*

Therefore, the Senate absolutely condemns the unjustifiable attack by the Russian Army on the sovereign state of Ukraine.

The Senate expresses its closeness to the Ukrainian people under siege, their victims and their numerous refugees, and to all the innocent victims of the conflict. In particular, the Senate is close to the academic communities of Ukrainian universities severely affected by the bombings and the effects of the ongoing conflict.

The University of Siena is already engaged to guaranteeing support to Ukrainian students currently enrolled at the University, by cancelling university fees, awarding scholarships, and providing accommodation and meals at the facilities of ARDSU, which we thank for the support.

At the same time, in agreement with the Ministry of University and Research, the University of Siena is ready to welcome and support, with the forms that will be deemed appropriate (out-of-period enrollments, scholarships, support for meals and accommodation) and within the limits of current legislation, students enrolled in Ukrainian universities and/or researchers of those universities wishing to continue their training and research activities at our University.

Similar attention is offered to all Russian students currently enrolled, or under mobility programs, at our University, to whom we will continue to guarantee the right to the normal continuation of their academic career.

With reference to the academic relations with Russian universities, the Senate expresses its indignation at the position taken by the Rectors of some universities in explicit support of the aggression initiated by their government on the Ukrainian soil, asking the Rector of USiena to express this position to the rectors involved. Official decisions regarding mobility agreements with those universities, including those aimed at granting double degrees, are temporarily suspended.

On the basis of the principles of cultural and scientific diplomacy, the Senate believes it necessary to continue, where possible, to keep institutional communication channels with the Russian academic and scientific community open, aiming at fostering dialogue and to support those who are opposing military aggression against Ukraine.